

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CU-02 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 /046 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:JKORNBLUM/CU/WE:RSTRAUS:DHT

APPROVED BY C:HSNENFELDT

EUR:AAHARTMAN

CU:CACHAPMAN

S/S: LREDDY

USIA;LSLAWECKI

----- 038420

R 170141Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 229943

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, CSCE, GE, US

SUBJECT: US-GDR CULTURAL RELATIONS

REF: STATE 147293; BERLIN 6106

1. DURING RECENT ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW, DEPT ALSO EXAMINED
CURRENT STATE US-GDR CULTURAL RELATIONS. WHILE SHORT-
RANGE POLICY GOALS CONTINUE TO BE FRUSTRATED BY IMMOBILITY
OF GDR ON ORIGINALLY-STATED US DESIDERATA (CONSULAR AGRE
MENT, HUMANITARIAN CASES), A START ON A SMALL
CULTURAL PROGRAM NOW MIGHT LEAD TO A LONG-RANGE OPENING UP
OF GDR SOCIETY. GIVEN THE GDR'S POSITION AMONG THE
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, WE BELIEVE THIS TO BE IN THE US
INTEREST. TAKING THE INITIATIVE IN THE CULTURAL FIELD
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WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR LONGER TERM EFFORTS

AT ACHIEVING BETTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CULTURAL PROVISIONS OF CSCE. IF THIS IS A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY WE COULD UNDERTAKE A START IN THIS DIRECTION WITHOUT VIOLATING OUR DESIRE FOR REAL PROGRESS ON OUR ORIGINAL DESIDERATA BEFORE ENTERING INTO FURTHER NORMALIZING STEPS.

2. WE HAVE NOTED WITH PLEASURE "SUCCESES" REPORTED BERLIN 6106, BUT ALSO NOTE THAT EXPERIENCE OF PAST 18 MONTHS SEEMS TO INDICATE GENERAL UNRESPONSIVENESS ON PART OF GDR TO USG REQUESTS FOR HIGH VISIBILITY PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS SUCH AS USG-SPONSORED FILM RETROSPECTIVE, USG-SPONSORED MUSICAL OR THEATRICAL PRESENTATIONS ALTHOUGH GDR HAS HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN MOUNTING SIMILAR PRESENTATIONS IN US.

3. IF US OFFER OF SUCH ITEMS WERE REJECTED BY GDR AS REQUIRING PRIOR CONCLUSION OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT, WE WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATION OF SUCH AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME FOR REASONS STATED PARA 1 ABOVE.

4. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT FOUNDATION FOR A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO CULTURAL RELATIONS COULD BE ESTABLISHED ON A LESS FORMAL BASIS. WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND IS WORKING OUT WITH THE GDR AN INFORMAL PROGRAM FOR THE COMING YEAR (CALENDAR YEAR 1977).

5. MAJOR ADVANTAGE OF SUCH A PROGRAM FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW WOULD BE IN MEETING GDR ARGUMENTS THAT US PRESENTATION CANNOT BE ACCEPTED EITHER FOR LACK OF SPACE OR BECAUSE THEY DO NOT FIT IN WITH CONCEPT OF OTHER CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS GOING ON IN GDR AT THE SAME TIME. BY OFFERING TO COORDINATE BOTH THE TYPE AND SCHEDULING OF PRESENTATIONS WITH THE GDR SEVERAL MONTHS IN ADVANCE, WE MIGHT BE ABLE FORCE THE GDR EITHER TO ACCEPT OUR IDEAS OR TO GIVE REASON FOR REFUSAL.

6. CATEGORIES IN WHICH WE WOULD WISH TO MAKE PRESENTATION IN THE GDR DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1977 (IN ORDER OF PRIORITY) ARE:

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A. FILM: IN RETURN FOR GDR FILM RETROSPECTIVE HELD AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, WE WOULD WISH TO ORGANIZE A SHOWING OF US FILMS IN A MAJOR GDR CITY, PREFERABLY BERLIN. RETROSPECTIVE COULD BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH APPPEARANCE OF US FILM SPECIALIST.

B. JOINT SEMINARS: AS HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE WITH THE USSR, WE PROPOSE ARRANGING JOINT SEMINARS OF US AND GDR

ACADEMICIANS ON TOPICS TO BE AGREED. TOPICS SUCH AS SPACE EXPLORATION; ENVIRONMENT; EAST-WEST TRADE HAVE OCCURRED TO US. SEMINARS ORGANIZED WITH SOVIETS HAVE DEALT WITH EDUCATION. OTHERS ARE PLANNED IN FIELDS OF LITERATURE AND THEATER. SUBJECTS FOR US-GDR MEETINGS COULD BE AGREED IN LATER DISCUSSIONS.

C. MUSIC: WE PROPOSE ONE PRESENTATION OF CHAMBER MUSIC AND ONE IN JAZZ OR POPULAR FIELD. SUGGEST ALSO THAT GDR AGREE TO ACCEPT A US CONDUCTOR AND A GOOD INSTRUMENTAL OR VOCAL SOLOIST FOR JOINT APPEARANCE WITH A GDR ORCHESTRA AND THAT UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF US SOLOISTS APPEAR WITH GDR OPERAS DURING THE YEAR.

D. THEATER OR CONTEMPORARY DANCE: WE EXPECT THAT A NUMBER OF US THEATER OR DANCE COMPANIES WILL BE TOURING EUROPE DURING 1977. WE PROPOSE THAT ONCE SPECIFIC DATES ARE KNOWN, GDR AGREE TO SCHEDULE ONE OF THE GROUPS IN BERLIN OR OTHER MAJOR CITY.

E. ART EXHIBITION: WE UNDERSTAND DISCUSSIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN GDR AND METROPOLITAN MUSEUM FOR RETURN SHOW IN RETURN FOR PRESENTATION BY DRESDEN GALLERY IN THE US. WHILE DETAILS MUST OF COURSE BE ARRANGED BY MUSEUMS INVOLVED, WE WOULD WELCOME CONFIRMATION IN PRINCIPLE BY GDR THAT SUCH A RETURN SHOW COULD BE ARRANGED.

7. THE ABOVE LIST REPRESENTS A MORE AMBITIOUS CULTURAL PROGRAM THAN WE COULD PROBABLY WISH TO PRESENT IN THE GDR AND WE DO NOT EXPECT THE EAST GERMANS TO ACCEPT EACH ITEM. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE MIGHT BE OTHER TYPES OF PRESENTATIONS WHICH THE EMBASSY OR GDR OFFICIALS MIGHT WISH TO PROPOSE. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO

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CONSIDER SUCH IDEAS. THE ABOVE LIST IS MERELY ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE TYPES OF THINGS ALREADY DONE BY THE GDR IN THE UNITED STATES AND CONCENTRATES ON ITEMS WHICH WE THINK WOULD BE REPRESENT THE US IN THE GDR. A SATISFACTORY RESULT OF THE DISCUSSIONS FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW WOULD INCLUDE GDR AGREEMENT ON AT LEAST FIVE OR SIX INDIVIDUAL EVENTS FROM THE CATEGORIES ON THE LIST.

8. WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO COMPLICATE THE DISCUSSIONS BY INCLUDING PROPOSALS FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGES. DEPARTMENT IS OF COURSE INTERESTED IN EXPANDING THIS AREA OF CULTURAL RELATIONS AND WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON HOW THIS MIGHT BEST BE ACHIEVED.

9. EMBASSY DCM AND CAO SHOULD PRESENT US PROPOSAL FOR

CULTURAL PLAN AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF FOREIGN AND CULTURAL MINISTRIES. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT PRESENTATIO BEING MADE IN SPIRIT OF INCREASING CONTACTS IN CULTURAL RELATIONS AS SET FORTH IN HELSINKI DOCUMENT OF CSCE. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT PROPOSING AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC PRESENTATIONS OR EXACT DATES, BUT RATHER AN UNDERSTANDING THAT PRESENTATIONS IN THE CATEGORIES LISTED WOULD BE POSSIBLE AND THAT THE TWO SIDES WOULD FACILITATE THEM. DETAILS WOULD BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN RESPECTIVE SIDE AND RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR IMPRESSARIOS. WHILE ALLOWANCE WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE FOR AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES, WE WOULD WANT TO MAKE CLAR FROM THE BEGINNING THAT WE WOULD NOT ACCEPT EXCUSES BASED ON SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES AS REASON EITHER FOR POOR PLACEMENT OR OUT-RIGHT CANCELLATION OF PRESENTATION INCLUDED IN THE AGREED PLAN. HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE229943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKORNBLUM/CU/WE:RSTRAUS:DHT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760351-0860
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760948/aaaabosz.tel
Line Count: 185
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 147293, 76 BERLIN 6106
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-GDR CULTURAL RELATIONS
TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, GC, US, CSCE
To: BERLIN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006